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CPW Report No. 77-A -- ~~COMMUNIST~~ CHINA

(June 1 - 7, 1953)

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SUMMARY

Factories take pride in being able to produce goods up to Soviet standards; college professors now are able to use Russian textbooks, the new Tihua power plant is constructed by Soviet experts with Russian machinery. However, emphasis on direct Soviet influence is at the lowest point in many months, with the old themes of Sino-Soviet friendship and China's debt of gratitude to the USSR almost entirely neglected. Peking still promotes Moscow's peace offensive, but with stress on peace in Korea, while the war clearly is a growing burden.

Chinese Communist efforts to Russify the country are more evident. Party committees push political indoctrination of cadres and teachers, with continued stress on the history of the Soviet Communist Party. Labor discipline is emphasized, while Party action on a regional level obviously aims at tighter control of the production machinery. Suppression of Shanghai Taoist sects gets considerable attention, with exhibits and radio programs designed to prove the action justified. Instructions to the newly organized Chinese Buddhist Association show clearly that this organization is a Party and Government adjunct.

Higher prices for grain, special steps to guard grain supplies, and continued condemnation of cadres for forcing organization of cooperatives and mutual aid teams, all reveal difficulties. Insistence that Government policy is to protect private ownership and make membership in farming organizations purely voluntary--points which have been emphasized since spring planting started--suggests possibly widespread peasant dissatisfaction. Collective farms are seldom mentioned. A recommendation that textile workers hold fewer and shorter meetings follows similar action taken several weeks ago with respect to teachers and students. The low quality of Chinese coal causes considerable concern; yet only a few weeks ago Russian experts were praised for making possible the use of low-grade coal in industry.

Revelation that the People's Liberation Army is supervising resettlement of 150 Sinkiang families might be a further indication of friction there and of the reason for large PLA garrisons.

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